

ENR-7736

18 April 1949

Clerk D.C.

Chief of Station, Warburke

Prof. Gerhard von MENDE

MRA-877; MRA-1006; RGA-5291; WASH 1807

PUNCHED

19 JUL 1949

1. On 5 January 1949 this office sent to you in MRA-5291 what appeared to be the only two important files on subject which either did not originate in Munich or had been marked for Munich distribution. Subject's file does contain prolific references to names and documents in the files of Operations "Tact", "Tailspin" and "Teresa" and to documents marked "With At. Reper". The "Tailspin" and "Teresa" files were sent to FBI in May or June 1947 at the request of Mrs. E. Lane. However, this office knew that a number of items on the Georgians were retained here. During the past week we have made an exhaustive search of our own files and of old correspondence in the registry, and have unearthed the following items, which should be of considerable interest. Since only a small portion of the material refers to subject, we have copied out that portion.

(a) From the file of Georgie V. SHVYDOKI, a German of Georgian ancestry and a friend of Michael ALCHIBAYA, employed by G.S. In 1945 (document dated 9 October 1945 and unnumbered); SHVYDOKI, who knew K.G.B. in Berlin during the war, claimed that through little valuable police connections, he was able to obtain Gerhard von MENDE, and supplied his U.S. travel papers. This was later denied by von MENDE.

(b) Letter dated 17 July 1949, numbered "L-503-717" mentions subject as picked up by Soviet Army along with a number of Georgians. (Copy attached).

(c) Two documents from folder of operation "Tact", both unnumbered. Only information given is that Subject was interrogated by Op. "Tact" on 26 July 1945. The documents are: a curriculum vitae of Subject, and a two and one-third page biography. (Both attached). The "Tact" file also states that "File 2" contains excerpts from von MENDE's diary, and a translation of "Die Voecker der Sowjetunion"; unfortunately, to date we can locate no trace of either and they may have been sent to Washington. However, we are continuing our search.

(d) We are also forwarding to you the "Tact" interrogations of Michael ALCHIBAYA, Givi GARLIANI and Alexandre TSCHAYA, Georgians intimately associated with Subject.

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ABSTRACT	INDEX
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(e) Unnumbered letter dated 31 October 1945 from Specialist Unit 655, stating that Subject had expressed his willingness to work for OSS. At this time, it was suggested that Subject work in an undercover job in Berlin, "since he is well acquainted with the minority questions in Russia and knows the White Russian and other minority circles in Berlin." Subject reported at that time to be in Goettingen. (Copy attached).

(f) Folder from Operation "Ruppert", in which Lt. Teper gives recommendations made on basis of "Fact" interrogations. In this file are (1) letter (L-003-1022) dated 22 October 1945, from Specialist Unit 655 again stating that "MENDE could be of great value to us as an agent"; answer from Lt. Teper to this letter, dated 31 October 1945 (L-003-5-1022) stating: "While there is little doubt that MENDE would work for the Americans, there is also little doubt that he would be an untrustworthy contact unless the Americans would agree to swallow fully his ideology and approach in the handling of the USSR problem"; a letter from Subject himself (L-003-913), dated 13 September 1945, to Mr. Stephen Dulles (CIC). (Copies attached)

(g) From S-SITS-648 (EW-625), dated 30 January 1946: Michel KEDIA recently approached OSS Bern with idea of making his Georgian chain available. Claimed never interested in political activity until German army arrived in Paris. Shortly thereafter, KEDIA was approached by a Mr. BRAUER, who said he had been recommended for collaboration by various Georgians in Berlin. Apparently KEDIA needed little convincing, for 1944 saw him in Berlin. F.W. mentioned the principal contacts there as Dr. GREGORI of SS L.S., Dr. MATH of Jewelr., and Prof. Gerhart von HEDDE of the Rosenberg Ministry. (KEDIA states that a Georges METREVELLI, now in Munich working for the Americans is, in reality, von MENDE.)"

(h) Letter (LX-003-211), dated 11 February 1946 from AG-2, AFHQ to AF-43 Munich stating "a good source in Switzerland disclosed that Professor Gerhart von HEDDE of the Rosenberg Ministry is in Munich, at the present time working for the Americans under the name of Georges METREVELLI." (Copy attached).

(i) Letter (X-8486) dated 14 October, giving opinion on Subject by L. METJAN: "Von MENDE was KREBS' AG's specialist on all Turkic tribes in Russia and has a mass of information on German Fifth Column work in the Caucasus and Crimea". This letter makes refer me to correspondence of 3 May 1945, which we cannot locate. It also refers to SLOTH's report MSG-321 of 2 August 1946, in which AG-43 states: "Nothing is known here either on the person of Prof. MENDE or on his use by the Americans." However, we have a file card on MENDE of same date which states: "Gerhard von MENDE; Statistisches Ministerium; reported used by US; presented by Georgians." (copy attached)

(j) Letter (003-1115) from SC Amson to SC Washington, dated 10 November 1946, which states "No further information is available regarding the present utilization of Subject's services by the Americans, except that he is not in any way connected with the War Department Detachment". An excerpt from Lt. Teper's recommendation follows:

(k) Letter MSG-003-404, dated 4 April, which discusses Subject's connections with the British. "In September 1946, von MENDE and AGHESIAN are said to have visited a British officer in Kreisenson, Hannover, and furnished him a list of persons whom they proposed for cooperations with British." Info from recent Rusty report. (copy attached)